

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

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FOR AEC (FRIEDMAN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH OCON UR

SUBJ: ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: FIRST JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: MOSCOW 1118

1. IN COURSE OF PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATION OF TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, ABRAHAMS AND SOVIET SIDE HAVE ACHIEVED FULL AGREEMENT ON DRAFT TEXT OF "REGULATIONS" AND AGENDA.

2. EXCEPT FOR THREE POINTS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED DURING JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, SOVIETS HAVE ALSO ACCEPTED US DRAFT CTR PROTOCOL WITH ONLY A FEW MINOR CHANGES OR ADDITIONS. FIRST POINT LEFT UNRESOLVED IS IN ARTICLE II, WHERE SOVIETS INSIST THAT FIRST SENTENCE BE MADE MORE BINDING BY CHANGING THE "MAY INCLUDE" TO "WILL INCLUDE." ALSO, IN ARTICLE II, SOVIETS WANT TO INCLUDE WORDKING, EITHER MODIFYING PARAS TWO OR AS SEPARATE PARA, THAT ENSURES THAT THE PROTOTYPE REACTOR REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE IS ONE WITH A "NET ELECTRICAL YIELD" THAT IS, PRODUCING MORE ELECTRICITY

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THAN IT CONSUMES IN OPERATION. ABRAHAMS SAID HE WAS NOT IN

POSITION TO DECIDE THIS POINT WITHOUT CONSULTING HIRSCH AND OTHER EXPERTS AT AEC. THIRD POINT REMAINING TO BE SETTLED IS QUESTION OF FREE MEDICAL CARE OF SPECIALISTS AND THEIR FAMILIES (ARTICLE VIII, PARA 5). SOVIET OBJECT TO USE OF "MAY" IN THIS PARAGRAPH AND INSIST UPON WORDING THAT WILL GUARANTEE SUCH FREE MEDICAL CARE. SOVIETS POINTS OUT THAT NOT ONLY DOES SOVIET LAW GUARANTEE EVERY CITIZEN THE RIGHT TO SUCH FREE CARE, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ENLIST TOP SPECIALISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS IN US WITHOUT SUCH PROVISION, BECAUSE SUCH SPECIALISTS WOULD NOT WANT POSSIBLY TO "RISK THE LIVES" OF THEIR FAMILIES. ABRAHAMS SAID HE FELT SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE COULD BE FOUND, BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH AEC ON THIS POINT AFTER HIS RETURN IN VIEW OF VARYING REGULATIONS AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES IN THIS REGARD AT THE DIFFERENT LABORATORIES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT MAY BE INVOLVED IN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.

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